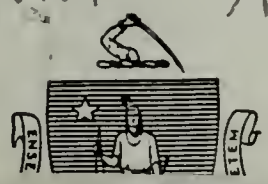

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Office of Campaign and Political Finance enters into disposition agreement with former Governor Dukakis

BOSTON - The Office of Campaign and Political Finance announced today that it had entered into a disposition agreement with former Governor Michael S. Dukakis and his political committee for failure to comply with the state's campaign finance law.

As part of that agreement, the Dukakis Committee has made payments to the commonwealth which total $ 2,744.96.

Massachusetts' campaign finance law, M.G.L. Chapter 55, prohibits cash contributions in excess of $50.00; prohibits political committees not registered under Massachusetts law from contributing to Massachusetts candidates; prohibits candidates for statewide office from contributing to any other candidate or political committee; and limits contributions from non-statewide candidates or political committees to other political committees to $100.00 in a calendar year.

In the disposition agreement, OCPF concluded that the Dukakis Committee accepted seven cash contributions of $100.00 each; accepted a total of $1,059.84 from statewide candidates through the sale or rental of computer lists or office furniture; received $1,185.12 in contributions from non-federal, out-of-state political committees not registered under Massachusetts law; and received a $250.00 contribution through the sale of a computer printer to a committee organized on behalf of a candidate.

The disposition agreement, signed by Dukakis and his committee's treasurer, Leonard Aronson, was the result of one of 38 comprehensive audits conducted by OCPF of candidates who either held or sought constitutional office in 1990.

As part of the agreement, the Dukakis Committee agreed to make the following payments to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

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-- $ 350.00, which equals the portion of cash contributions received in excess of the statutory limit of $ 50.00;

-- $ 1,059.84, which represents the amount of contributions received from political committees organized on behalf of candidates for statewide office;

-- $ 1,185.12, which represents the amount of contributions received from non-federal, out-of-state political committees not registered under Massachusetts law;

-- $ 150.00, which equals the portion of a contribution received from a political committee organized on behalf of a candidate in excess of the statutory limit of $100.00.

Commenting on the disposition agreement, Mary F. McTigue, Director of the Office of Campaign and Political Finance, said the issues addressed in the Dukakis case go to the heart of the campaign finance laws.

"Candidates and committees need to understand that the sale or transfer of anything of value between political committees constitutes a contribution, and that contributions to statewide candidates and office holders are strictly regulated," said McTigue.

"In addition, this agreement should be a reminder that in order to contribute to Massachusetts candidates, committees must register under Massachusetts law," she added.

The Office of Campaign and Political Finance was established in 1973 to oversee and enforce the campaign finance laws with respect to all candidates on the state, county and municipal levels. In addition, OCPF maintains campaign finance records for all candidates and political committees in order to provide disclosure of these activities to the public.

A copy of this disposition agreement, as well as all other disposition agreements, is available for public inspection during normal business hours.